



OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH INFORMATION

WHAT IS THE PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM?

- Each day, an average of 9,000 U.S. workers sustain disabling injuries on the job, 16 workers die from an injury sustained at work, and 137 die from work-related illnesses.
- The direct and indirect cost of occupational injuries was estimated to be at least \$240 billion in 1999. The cost of occupational injuries and diseases rivals the cost of diseases such as cancer, Alzheimer's, or AIDS.
- Policy-related, technical, and educational materials are critical in assisting both individuals and decision makers in taking appropriate actions to prevent and reduce work-related illnesses and injuries.

WHAT HAS CDC ACCOMPLISHED?

Each year, CDC translates occupational research findings into various media to be used by public health policymakers and practitioners. This information provides a scientific basis for rulemaking and policy development and is used to a) identify previously unrecognized threats to worker health and safety; b) alert citizens about hazardous conditions; and c) develop related prevention strategies. Educational materials provide targeted populations (e.g., workers, employers, and health practitioners) with practical information about risks and prevention. Each year, CDC distributes over 1.5 million copies of occupational safety and health documents through its publications clearinghouse. Occupational safety and health information also is available in both English and Spanish through CDC's Web site.

Examples of program in action:

- One of the most popular Federal publications, the *National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Pocket Guide to Chemical Hazards*, remains the leading safety and health document sold by the Government Printing Office (GPO) and is among the top sellers of all GPO publications.
- CDC published *Soluciones Simples: Ergonomía Para Trabajadores Agrícolas*, that provides illustrated, easy-to-read guidelines and tip sheets for Spanish-speaking farm workers, their employers, and safety professionals.
- CDC also published five *Worker Health Chartbooks* that provide comprehensive data and summaries on the nature and prevalence of work-related illnesses, injuries, and deaths.
- In FY2002, 500,000 visitors per month accessed occupational safety and health information on the CDC Web site, an increase of 80% from the previous year.

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

- CDC will continue to provide key information to individuals and decision makers to help reduce work-related injuries and illnesses.
- CDC will seek new and better ways of reaching its stakeholders, including through expanded use of the Internet as a method of information dissemination.
- CDC will evaluate its publications to assess their value and utility among primary users of this information.
- CDC will explore methods of better communicating occupational safety and health information to small businesses.

For additional information on this and other CDC programs, visit www.cdc.gov/programs.

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